

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 /108 W

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R 070915Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2118

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0620

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, PK

SUBJECT: SUBCONTINENT SETTLEMENT AND ISLAMIC SUMMIT

REF: A. DACCA 616; B. DACCA 609

1. DURING MY CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARY ENAYET KARIM FEB 7, I ASKED HIM HOW THE BDG INTENDED TO TREAT AN INVITATION TO THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT. KARIM ESSENTIALLY REPEATED THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S FEB 5 STATEMENT (REF B) THAT RECOGNITION WAS NECESSARY BEFORE BDG COULD ATTEND THE LAHORE MEETING. HE EXPRESSLY AVOIDED SAYING HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ATTEND.

2. REFERRING TO MY LAST MEETING WITH THE FOMIN ON JAN 10, KARIM REITERATED HIS MINISTER'S POINT THAT PAK RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH WOULD BE HASTENED IF THE U.S. EXPRESSED ITS INTEREST TO BHUTTO. I ASSURED KARIM THAT I HAD CARRIED KAMAL HOSSAIN'S MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON AND THAT IT WAS BEING GIVEN CAREFUL ATTENTION. I REMINDED HIM, HOWEVER, THAT WE CONTINUED TO EXPECT THAT THE SUB-CONTINENT STATES THEMSELVES SHOULD CARRY THE BURDEN OF A SETTLEMENT. KARIM IN TURN REMINDED ME THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAD DECLARED HYW RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH IS A KEY STEP TOWARD STABILIZATION OF RELATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA.

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3. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WENT ON TO RECOUNT THE SEVERAL FRUSTRA-

TIONS HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ENCOUNTERED IN TRYING TO DEAL WITH PAKISTAN SINCE THE DELHI AGREEMENT. HE REPEATED A LITANY OF BENGALIEE CHARGES OF PAK BAD FAITH, BUT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT BDG COULD BE CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN. IN AN OBVIOUS ALLUSION TO GOP CONCERN OVER THE WAR CRIMES TRIALS ISSUE, HE STRESSED THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF MUJIB'S AMNESTY AND RELEASE OF 1971 DETAINEES HAD NOT BEEN FULLY APPRECIATED. WHEN I ASKED HIM IF PAK FAILURE TO DELETE FROM THEIR CONSTITUTION MENTION OF EAST PAKISTAN WOULD QUALIFY IN BENGALIEE EYES THE ACCEPTABILITY OF PAK RECOGNITION, KARIM REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT CONSIDERED THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM BUT IMPLIED THAT SIMPLE RECOGNITION WOULD BE SATISFACTORY.

4. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S REMARKS ARE FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE BDG HAS THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AND MAY EXPECT A SETTLEMENT OF THE RECOGNITION ISSUE SHORTLY. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD SEEM THAT WE NEED FEEL LESS IMPULSE TO NUDGE BHUTTO ALONG AT THIS POINT EVEN THOUGH THIS IS WHAT THE BDG CLEARLY WISHES US TO DO.
NEWBERRY

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